



Session 1B:

Panel Discussion: The FPE's Role in Large Loss Fire Investigations

Guided by recent case examples, the panel will share their personal experience of the FPEs role in investigating large fire losses. Referenced examples will include among others the QVC Distribution Center fire in Rocky Mount Hill, NC and the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) in San Diego, CA. Topics to be addressed will include:

- Use of Specialized Personnel and Technical Consultants
- Coordinating with fire investigators and other engineering disciplines
- Investigation protocols and procedures
- Roles of involved entities (public, private, interested parties, etc.)
- Scientific method and Levels of Certainty
- Role in the Legal Process



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Mr. Custer is an Electrical Engineer for Kilgore Engineering, Inc., and has over 20 years of experience as a forensic investigative engineer. He specializes in the analysis of electrical, software, and electronic failures resulting in fires, explosions, equipment damage, or personal injury. Mr. Custer has specialized expertise in the areas of electrical/electronic failure analysis, software failures, control systems, cognitive systems, battery systems, and electrical evidence collection, analysis, and testing procedures. Mr. Custer has designed electronic hardware, software, and networking systems for various government contracts including the development of unmanned aerial vehicles, advanced fire detectors, and shipboard wiring fault detection. Mr. Custer has a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and is a registered professional engineer in Texas and Louisiana. Mr. Custer has presented at the 2013 IEEE Product Safety Engineering Society; 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021 NASP Conferences; multiple IAAI State Conferences; and at the 2018 IAAI International Conference

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